



## Aruba's Olympic Committee wishes island athletes well on their way to ODESUR

Saturday evening, November 4 the Comité Olimpico Arubano (COA) hosted a kick-off and farewell party at the Talk of the Town Resort for Aruban athletes on their way to the Oganisacion Deportivo Sur America (ODESUR) games being held in Argentina from November 9 until 19. Aruba will send a delegation of twenty-eight to the games, including fifteen athletes, coaches, and the support group consisting of Chief of Mission Frank Valesques, COA President, Leo Maduro, and COA Secretary Nicole Hoevertsz, who is also a member of the International Olympic Committee.

The ODESUR games are not as large as some, but a factor towards the rankings of the athletes in their eventual consideration for placement on the team that will travel to the Olympics in Beijing in 2008. Fifteen countries are participating in the competitions, which will take place in the cities of Buenos Aires and Mar Del Plata. Aruban athletes will be participating in seven events including Target Shooting, Boxing, Swimming BMX Cycling, Judo, Tae Kwon Do, and Table Tennis. During the Saturday night festivities, BMX athlete Bryan Elisabeth and Alvin Oduber of the shooting team received the Aruban flags that they will be the bearers of on behalf of their country during the opening ceremonies in Mar del Plata and Buenos Aires, respectively. The committee particularly have their eye on Bryan Elizabeth, as in 2008 BMX cycling will be included in The Olympics for the first time.

The other Aruban athletes traveling to Argentina are Dennis Rasmijn and Michael Heyligher of the shooting team. Mario Lobo, Remy de Lange and Andy Gomex will compete in table tennis. Evan Nedd, boxing; Jan Roodzant and Mickey van der Vaart for swimming; Fiderd Vis, Judo; Stewart Smit, Moises Fernandez, Willy Willems and the single participating woman athlete, Aischall van der Linde make up the Tae Kwon Do team. Traveling to Argentina with them is Augustin Tromp, who has represented Aruba in the past in Tae Kwon Do, but this year will participate as a referee.

Nicole Hoevertsz expressed that "Aruba's athletes are well prepared for this competition, and we believe they will do a good job." The staff of the THE NEWS wishes them good luck in their endeavor to bring home the gold!